SSA also envisages flexible strategies and interventions to provide educational facilities. SSA will cover the entire expanse of the country before March 2002 and the programme in every district will depend upon the District Elementary Education Plan (DEEP) prepared by it as per its specific needs.

The National Literacy Mission (NLM) aims at imparting functional literacy to 15-35 age group in order to achieve the threshold, sustainable level of 75 per cent literacy by 2005.

The campaign model is now accepted as the dominant strategy for eradication of adult literacy in India. These compaigns are area-specific, time-bound, volunteer-based, cost-effective and outcome-oriented. The thrust is on attainment of functional literacy through prescribed forms of literacy and numeracy. The learner is the focal point in the entire process and measurement of learning outcome is continuous, informal, participative and non-threatening.

**Apprehension of Sangh Parivar over-running ICSSR**

4662. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR) has sought the intervention of the Prime Minister to save the institution from the efforts of the Sangh Parivar to overrun it;

(b) if so, the details of requests made by the ICSSR; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure that scholarly and objective research work in the ICSSR is not subordinated to suit any political or ideological requirements?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) It is a fact that the Chairman, ICSSR, has written a letter to the Prime Minister of India asking for certain measures to be taken for betterment of ICSSR. There is however, no mention of the Sangh Parivar in the letter.

(b) The Chairman, in his letter has mentioned about inadequacy of funds, development of Social Sciences without any political or ideological interference, improvement of working conditions of the staff of ICSSR, enhancement in the rate of national fellowships and scholarships. The ICSSR is a registered Society. Complaints have been received from a number of Council members regarding the arbitrary functioning of the Chairman, ICSSR. The funding position of the ICSSR for the last three years is as follows:—

(Rs. in lacs)

| Year | Plan | Non-Plan |
|---|---|---|
| 1998-1999 | 700.00 | 687.30 |
| 1999-2000 | 750.00 | 1000.00 |
| 2000-2001 | 1290.00 | 1314.00 |

(c) ICSSR is an autonomous body and thus fully empowered to make progress in social sciences without any political interference.

**Saffronisation of education system**

4663. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether eminent educationists have flayed Government for foisting the Hindutva elements on the NCERT and also to propagate the ideology of hate and bigoted chauvinism;

(b) if so, whether the steps of Government to saffronise education system has been widely criticised;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government on such criticism; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ban such books which have been severely criticised?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has a mandate under the National Policy on Education to review the curricular framework of our schools periodically. As part of that exercise, they